



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability  
Infrastructure Security and Energy Restoration

# ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Monday Evening, March 30, 2009

## Electricity

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### **Winter Storms Leave Approximately 73,000 Customers without Power in Kansas**

**March 27-29**

A blizzard swept through the state of Kansas over the weekend March 27-29, leaving more than 70,000 Westar customers without power, as well as cutting electricity to 3,500 Butler County Rural Electric Cooperative customers. Ice and wind hampered the restoration process, a Westar official said. As of most recent reports, about 3,900 Westar customers remain without electricity; whereas 200 Butler County REC customers are also without power.

<https://www-11.westarenergy.com/outagemaps/outagetable.asp>

<http://www.kansas.com/news/story/753028.html>

<http://www.eldoradotimes.com/news/x140394047/Storm-leaves-residents-without-power>

### **Snow, Heavy Winds Knock out Power to over 50,000 Customers in Illinois March 29**

Strong winds and wet snow left about 42,000 Commonwealth Edison customers without power the morning of March 29. Additionally, Ameren reported the storm knocked out power to over 10,000 customers on March 29. As of most recent reports, Ameren is reporting 732 customers without power in Illinois, and Com Ed is reporting approximately 2,200 customers still remain without power March 30.

[http://www.ameren.com/Outage/ADC\\_IllinoisOutageInformation.asp](http://www.ameren.com/Outage/ADC_IllinoisOutageInformation.asp)

<http://www.tradingmarkets.com/.site/news/Stock%20News/2245771/>

<http://www.suntimes.com/lifestyles/1501975.CST-NWS-weather30.article>

<http://cbs2chicago.com/local/chicago.spring.snow.2.970679.html>

### **Iowa Governor Issues Emergency Proclamation for Greene County, Iowa Following County-wide Power Outage**

On March 26, Iowa Governor Chet Culver issued an emergency proclamation for Greene County to help restore power in the community. Earlier that day, a fire at a substation caused power outages in Greene County. With the Governor's proclamation, members of the Iowa National Guard will help restore power by providing a power generator to the county.

[http://www.governor.iowa.gov/news/2009/03/26\\_5.php](http://www.governor.iowa.gov/news/2009/03/26_5.php)

### **Update: TVA's 1,126 MW Sequoyah Nuke Unit 2 in Tennessee Ramped Up to 47 Percent by March 30, TVA's 1,221 MW Sequoyah Nuke Unit 1 in Tennessee Remains Offline**

The plant was shut early March 26 when a transformer malfunctioned, shutting power to the coolant pumps for the reactors. Unit 2 has restarted and is returning to normal operating rates while Unit 1 remains offline. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of March 29 Unit 2 was operating at 5 percent.

[http://www.newschannel9.com/news/says\\_976847\\_article.html/sequoyah\\_nuclear.html](http://www.newschannel9.com/news/says_976847_article.html/sequoyah_nuclear.html)

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2009/>

### **Calpine's 561 MW Los Medanos Energy Center Aggregate Gas-fired Unit in California Shut by March 28**

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit experienced an unplanned outage by March 28.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus200903281515.html>

### **TMPA's 462 MW Gibbons Creek Coal-fired Unit in Texas Shut March 27**

The Texas Municipal Power Agency (TMPA) said in a report to state regulators that it was forced to shut its Gibbons Creek power station on March 27 to repair an electrical problem.

Reuters, 17:02 March 27, 2009

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=121911>

### **FPL's 839 MW Saint Lucie Nuke Unit 2 in Florida at Full Power by March 29**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of March 28 the unit was operating at 85 percent. Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2009/>

### **APS's 1,243 MW Palo Verde Nuke Unit 1 in Arizona Ramped Up to 93 Percent by March 30**

Operators at the plant shut the Unit's turbine to clean a clogged filter in the stator cooling water system; meanwhile the reactor remained online but operated at low power. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of March 29 the unit was operating at 12 percent.

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/oilRpt/idUKN3028559420090330>

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2009/>

### **PSE&G's 1,096 MW Salem Nuke Unit 1 in New Jersey Ramped Up to 49 Percent by March 30**

Operators at the plant took the unit offline on March 27 to fix the chemistry of the water in the condenser. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of March 29 the unit was operating at 28 percent.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/marketsNews/idUSN3034131420090330>

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2009/>

### **TVA's 1,118 MW Browns Ferry Nuke Unit 2 in Alabama at Full Power by March 29**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of March 28 the unit was operating at 86 percent. Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2009/>

### **Update: Southern Company's 860 MW Farley Nuke Unit 2 in Alabama Ramped Up to 1 Percent by March 30**

The unit shut by March 23 to fix a tube leak after high sodium levels were found in the condenser.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN3031982920090330>

### **Entergy's 1,207 MW Grand Gulf Nuke Unit 1 in Mississippi at Full Power by March 30**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of March 29 the unit was operating at 90 percent. Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2009/>

### **Exelon's 850 MW Dresden Nuke Unit 2 in Illinois Ramped Up to 98 Percent by March 29**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of March 28 the unit was operating at 83 percent. Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2009/>

### **Reliant's 320 MW Etiwanda Generating Station Gas-fired Unit 3 in California Returns to Service by March 29**

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit returned from an unplanned outage.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus200903291515.html>

### **Ace Cogeneration's 118 MW Ace Cogeneration Coal-fired Unit in California Returns to Service by March 29**

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit returned from an unplanned outage.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus200903291515.html>

### **Update: NRG's 836 MW Limestone Coal-fired Unit 1 in Texas to Restart Soon**

The unit was shut on March 25 due to fix a tube leak in the boiler. NRG Energy planned to restart Unit 2 late March 27, yet the restart date was not confirmed.

Reuters, 17:39 March 27, 2009

### **U.S. Power Use Dropping in Line with Recession, EIA Data Suggests**

In a recent analysis article by Reuters, the latest data available from the Energy Information Administration (EIA) shows that electricity demand in the U.S. will continue to shrink in 2009. The EIA reported that electricity sales to industrial customers are expected to shrink 6.4 percent this year, to an expected 1.7 percent drop in overall power consumption in 2009. Additionally, industrial customers bought 11.4 percent less power in January 2009 compared with the same time frame one year ago. The article said the EIA expects the downturn to reverse course in 2010, with 1.2 percent growth in electric output as the economy slowly returns to life.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/domesticNews/idUSTRE52T4SW20090330>

<http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/steo/pub/contents.html>

### **Xcel Energy Looking to Expand its 'Smart-Grid City' Project in Boulder, Colorado**

One of Colorado's largest electric utilities, Xcel Energy, is seeking to expand its "smart-grid city" project by seeking 10,000 volunteers to install high-tech electric meters used to program and monitor energy use. Xcel has installed approximately 14,000 smart meters throughout Colorado that provide information to the utility and to the customer. According to a company representative, the two-way communication will allow the utility to more quickly track and fix power outages.

<http://www.850koa.com/cc-common/news/sections/newsarticle.html?feed=124975&article=5230285>

### **TransAlta's 399 MW Sundance Coal-fired Unit 6 in Alberta Shut March 28**

Reuters, 10:08 March 30, 2009

## ***Petroleum***

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### **Platformer Shut at Flint Hills's 288,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery March 27**

According to a filing with state regulators, Flint Hills reported high levels of emissions from its Corpus Christi refinery due to the unplanned shutdown of the CCR Platformer Unit. The shutdown of the platformer unit in turn created pressure, shutting down the hydrocracker unit reactors as well as a coker unit wet gas compressor.

Reuters, 09:16 March 30, 2009

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=121939>

### **Update: Motiva's 285,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery Returns to Normal Operating Rates following March 25 Power Outage**

A spokesperson for the Port Arthur refinery said the plant has resumed normal operations after a lightning storm on March 25 forced the shutdown of a hydrocracker and other processing units.

Bloomberg News, 10:57 March 30, 2009

## ***Natural Gas***

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Nothing to report.

## ***Other News***

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Nothing to report.

## Energy Prices

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U.S. Oil and Gas Prices March 30, 2009			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
<b>CRUDE OIL</b> <b>West Texas Intermediate U.S.</b> \$/Barrel	49.11	52.65	105.31
<b>NATURAL GAS</b> <b>Henry Hub</b> \$/Million Btu	3.73	3.99	9.30

Source: Reuters

## Energy Notes

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### **Chestnut Ridge Storage's Junction Natural Gas Storage Project in Pennsylvania and West Virginia Receives Environmental Okay from FERC**

<http://www.jctstorage.com/>

Natural Gas Intelligence, March 30, 2009: <http://intelligencepress.com/>

### **Transcontinental Gas Pipeline Company's Conyngham Loop Natural Gas Project in Pennsylvania Gets Local Approval Following Right-of-Way Dispute**

<http://www.istockanalyst.com/article/viewiStockNews/articleid/3155323>

### **Flooding and Expected Rains Postpones Rockies Express (REX) Pipeline East Expected In-Service Date – Pushed Back to Late April or Early May**

<http://intelligencepress.com/>

### **Valve Malfunction Reported at Fullerton Gas Plant in Texas March 29**

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=121946>

### **High Temperature Exhaust Shuts Turbines at Goldsmith Gas Plant in Texas March 28**

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=121944>

### **State Government of New Hampshire Creates 'Climate Change Policy Task Force' – Initiatives Include Energy-Efficient Building Practices, Expanding Public Transit and New Power Lines to Transport Clean Energy from Canada**

[http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/air/tsb/tps/climate/action\\_plan/index.htm](http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/air/tsb/tps/climate/action_plan/index.htm)

### **Update: Virginia State Corporation Commission Approves Dominion Virginia Power's Planned 580 MW Combined Cycle Bear Garden Power Station to be Located in Virginia**

<http://finance.yahoo.com/news/Dominion-Virginia-Power-prnews-14772581.html>

### **Mexico's Three Main Oil Exporting Ports; Coatzacoalcas, Cayo Arcas and Dos Bocas Shut over Weekend on Bad Weather - Coatzacoalcas, Cayo Arcas Reopened March 29**

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/oilRpt/idUKN2930682820090329>

### **Update: Bad Weather Cuts Exports from Basra Oil Terminal in Iraq to 1 MMb/d, Down from 1.44 MMb/d within 24 Hours, Shippers Report**

Reuters, 06:06 March 30, 2009

## Saudi Aramco Opens New 650,000 bbls Fuel Storage Facility in Qassim, Saudi Arabia to Help Minimize Potential Supply Disruptions

Reuters, 11:09 March 29, 2009

## Venezuela's State-owned PdVSA Announces 40 Percent Cut in 2009 Projected Spending

[http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a\\_id=74454](http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a_id=74454)

## Update: Petrobras, National Oilworkers Federation Agree to Suspend Oil Workers' Strike in Brazil

[http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a\\_id=74474](http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a_id=74474)

## Links

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***This Week in Petroleum*** from the Energy Information Administration (EIA)

<http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/oog/info/twip/twip.asp>

Updated every Wednesday.

***Weekly Petroleum Status Report*** from EIA

[http://www.eia.doe.gov/oil\\_gas/petroleum/data\\_publications/weekly\\_petroleum\\_status\\_report/wpsr.html](http://www.eia.doe.gov/oil_gas/petroleum/data_publications/weekly_petroleum_status_report/wpsr.html)

Updated after 10:30 AM & 1:00 PM EST every Wednesday.

***Natural Gas Weekly Update*** from EIA

<http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/oog/info/ngw/ngupdate.asp>

Updated after 2:00 PM EST every Thursday.

## ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

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<http://www.oe.netl.doe.gov/ead.aspx>

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